



Norman H. Bangerter  
Governor

Suzanne Dandoy, M.D., M.P.H.  
Executive Director

May 14, 1987

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MAY 20 1987

DIVISION OF  
OIL, GAS & MINING

TKS Mining Company  
333 South Broadway  
Cortez, Colorado 81321

RE: Dewatering of Avalanche 13  
Uranium Mine, San Juan County

INA 1037/033

Gentlemen:

On Tuesday, April 21, 1987, an inspection of produced water containment and barium chloride treatment ponds at the Avalanche 13 uranium mine in San Juan County was conducted. Mr. David Ariotti, P.E., Bureau of Water Pollution Control, and Mr. Greg Adams, Southeastern District Health Department, conducted the inspection in presence of Mr. Kevin Shumway, TKS Mining.

The existing membrane lined ponds were inspected for use as total containment ponds for water produced from the mine. The original owner, URADCO was issued a construction permit from the Utah Water Pollution Control Committee and an NPDES discharge permit in 1979 for operation of these ponds. The TKS Mining Company has acquired rights for mining the Avalanche 13 mine. The existing ponds are expected to contain the total volume of water which must be pumped from the mine for safe operation through 1987, based upon the information provided to us.

The following additional conditions are necessary to be met before using the lined ponds as determined from the above inspection:

1. The ponds shall be used as a total containment facility only. No overflow shall be permitted.
2. Monthly operating reports showing depth of ponds, and volume of water pumped from the mine must be submitted to this office.
3. The approved depth of the ponds shall not be exceeded. Freeboard of two feet must be maintained at all times. In the event the maximum allowable depth is reached, operations shall be suspended until an approved plan for treatment, and a discharge permit is obtained.

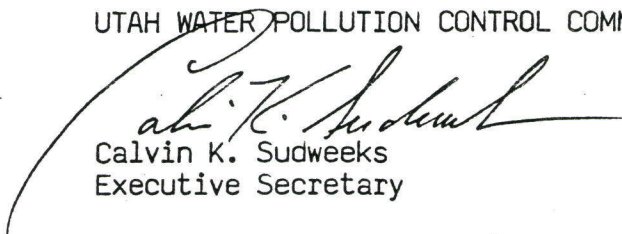
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We recommend that the TKS Company apply for a discharge permit as soon as possible. This will enable the company to continue mining should a discharge become necessary. The previous permit that was issued to URADCO for a discharge has expired.

If you have any questions, please contact David Ariotti at 637-3671.

Sincerely,

UTAH WATER POLLUTION CONTROL COMMITTEE



Calvin K. Sudweeks  
Executive Secretary

DA:jgh

cc: Dale Parker, Division of Environmental Health  
David Ariotti, Southeast District Engineer  
Division of Oil, Gas and Mining  
Irene Savanyo, Manti LaSal National Forest, Moab

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